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## Accusation by Senator

# CIA: Wants to 'Stand Above Law'?

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WASHINGTON—Sen. Sam J. Ervin Jr., D-N.C., furious about backstage lobbying by the Central Intelligence Agency, says the CIA wants to "stand above the law."

"They want the unmitigated right to kick federal employes around (and) deny them . . . the basic rights which belong to every American," he declared on the Senate floor Tuesday.

The denunciation by Ervin—a member of the Senate Armed Services Committee, which has jurisdiction over the CIA—came after the Senate leadership, at the request of CIA officials, scratched from Tuesday's Senate agenda an Ervin-sponsored bill to safeguard the rights of federal employes.

Senate Democratic Leader Mike Mans-

field said he had postponed action on the bill until Sept. 19 at the CIA's request.

Among other things, the bill would prohibit the CIA and the equally secret National Security Agency (NSA) from asking employes or job applicants about their sex habits, family relations or religious beliefs as part of lie-detector or psychiatric tests.

### Exception Is Proposed

An exception would be in situations where the directors of the CIA or the NSA determined that such questioning was vital to protect national security.

CIA representatives last week notified

several senators, including James O. Eastland, D-Miss., chairman of the Judiciary Committee, that they wanted a secret hearing on their objections to the bill.

The Judiciary Committee had already reported the bill by a unanimous vote.

Apparently with Eastland's approval, the bill was not recommitted to the committee but was placed on the Senate agenda for Tuesday. Then, at midmorning, the bill was removed from the agenda.

Ervin, in his Senate speech Tuesday, read a law forbidding agencies of the executive branch to attempt to influence the passage or defeat of legislation before Congress.